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What is claimed is:

1. A filter element comprising:
 - a support structure including a first section and a second section;
 - the first section including:
 - a first plurality of elongate longitudinal wire members, the elongate longitudinal wire members being generally evenly spaced about the circumference of a circle and generally parallel to one another, each elongate longitudinal wire member having a first end and a second end,
 - a plurality of form wires, the form wires having a closed circular shape and being of a similar diameter and being positioned inside and perpendicular to the elongate longitudinal wire members,
 - a terminal form wire secured to the first ends of the plurality of elongate longitudinal wire members,
 - a mouth rim secured to the second ends of the plurality of elongate longitudinal wire members, the mouth rim extending beyond a diameter of the form wires in order to secure the first section in an opening in a hanger deck within an air filtration unit;
 - the second section including:
 - a second plurality of elongate longitudinal wire members, the elongate longitudinal wire members being generally evenly spaced about

a second plurality of form wires of similar diameter to the first plurality of form wires and to one another, the form wires having a closed circular shape and being positioned inside and perpendicular to the elongate longitudinal wire members,

a pair of guide members extending generally parallel to the second plurality of elongate longitudinal wire members, the guide members having an elongate U-shape and two generally parallel legs, the legs of each guide member being bonded to two of the form wires and extending outwardly and beyond the third end of the elongate longitudinal wire members and the guide members being adapted to slidably fit within the terminal form wire and to resiliently grip the at least two of the first plurality of form wires and to exert an outward force thereon to connect the first section and the second section;

at least one O-ring having a diameter slightly smaller than the diameter of the form wires; and

a filter medium bag carried by the support structure, the filter medium bag being sized to encompass both the first section and the second when they are joined together end to end and secured to the first section by tension of the O-ring.